

GODMANCHESTER

Urban District Council.

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Godmanchester,

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

BY


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Medical Officer of Health.

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**TO THE
GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

GENTLEMEN,

The Ministry of Health require information on certain subjects. This information is embodied in this report to save extra printing and time.

The population in 1920 was 2094. The 1911 Census population was 2135.

Godmanchester is a Borough situate on the south side of the river Ouse, with an area of 4,659 acres. The Borough proper is located on the banks of the river with many straggling streets and lanes, and spreading over a considerable acreage, flanked on the East and West by extensive commons, which are at times flooded.

The rising ground on the Southern side of the Borough is dotted with farm-houses and homesteads. The soil of the Borough proper is gravel, and that of the higher ground Oxford Clay.

The population is practically all connected with agricultural pursuits. The only manufactory in the Borough being a Flour Mill. The health of the Borough is satisfactory.

Vital Statistics.

The Births registered were 56, 35 males and 21 females, of these, 4 males and 2 females were illegitimate, this gives a birth-rate of 26·7 per 1000 persons living. The Birth-rate for England and Wales being 25·4 per 1000.

The Deaths registered were 33, 16 males and 17 females, of these 9 were over 80 years of age, an average of 15·7 per 1000 persons living. The Death-rate for England and Wales being 12·4 per 1000.

Infantile Mortality.

One child died under one year of age of Inanition.

Poor Law Medical relief is utilised to a fair extent, principally amongst the older inhabitants, also the Huntingdon County Hospital is used both by Out and In- door patients.

Water Supply.

Water is obtained from shallow wells sunk in the gravel of the Ouse valley ; this is liable to pollution. Notices have been posted on all the pumps advising the inhabitants to boil their water before using it for drinking purposes.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There is a complete system of sewerage and drainage with a thorough system of flushing at the distal end of each sewer.

There are 500 pail and tub closets and 12 water closets.

Very little fœcal matter passes through the sewers.

Rivers and Streams.

The effluent of the Sewers runs into the River Ouse after having travelled about a mile and a half, very little solid matter passes through the drains, as it is carted out of the Borough.

Scavenging.

Refuse is carted out of the Borough by the staff of the Corporation and disposed of in a distant field remote from any chance of water contamination.

Lodging Houses, &c.

One registered Lodging House, the Slaughter Houses; Bake-houses (all above ground), Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops and Factories (of which only one now exists), a Flour Mill are regularly visited by the Inspector.

Schools.

The Schools are visited by the Sanitary Inspector but are under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Inspections.

In December last I made a general inspection of the district, accompanied by your Inspector of Nuisances. I have made other Inspections when diseases and nuisances existed to which my attention had been called.

Nuisance Inspection is embodied in the Sanitary Officer's Report, *vide* page 7.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply is wholesome. Two samples were sent for analysis during the year and both found genuine. The Dairies and Cowsheds are generally in good condition, and there are many acres of commons and grazing land which is conducive to the healthiness of the cows.

There is no arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of Cows.

Food Supply.

No samples of food were sent for analysis.

Infectious and other Diseases.

There were 25 cases of diseases notified under the Act.

Diphtheria.

Fifteen cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, all of these were treated in their homes and one child died.

Pneumonia.

Two cases of Pneumonia were notified.

Tuberculosis.

Eight cases of this disease were notified, of which seven were of the Pulmonary type.

There were two deaths from Tuberculous disease during the year.

The County Council have the administration of the different Acts relating to Tuberculosis.

Cancer.

There was one death from Cancer during the year.

Disinfection.

Disinfection is carried out by your Inspector principally by means of the Formic Aldehyde Lamp.

Antitoxin is stored at the Police Station, Huntingdon, and can always be obtained at short notice.

Mortuary.

A public Mortuary exists.

Isolation Hospital.

During the year steps have been taken to provide an Isolation Hospital for the County. Your Borough no doubt will join with other districts in providing a satisfactory solution to this old difficulty.

Small Pox.

No cases occurred in the Borough.

Vaccination.

Vaccination is greatly neglected in the Borough. Some day an outbreak of small pox will bring to parents the necessity and advantage of vaccination and re-vaccination.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

This is managed by the County Council.

Housing.

House accommodation for the labouring classes is of a mixed character. The old thatched cottages are gradually being re-placed by more modern dwelling-houses, and the house accommodation is generally improving. There is plenty of open space about the houses, the cleanliness of the surroundings in some places is not of a high class, the yards being imperfectly paved and gravelled. The gravelling of the yards shows some improvement.

Your Council have started building houses according to the Government scheme and early in the new year I hope many of them will be finished and occupied.

CHARLES E. HICKS,

Medical Officer of Health,

Godmanchester Urban District Council.

HUNTINGDON,

1921.

GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Milk Sellers)—

No. in District	...	...	...	...	19
No. of Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	...	27
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, &c.	...	...	...	...	3
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	15
Have Regulations been adopted?	...	...	...	...	No
No. of Premises with Well Water Supply	...	...	...	...	19
No. of, from which water analysed	...	...	...	...	0

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk—(Butter and Cheese Makers,—

No. in District	...	...	...	...	3
No. Inspection of Premises	...	...	...	...	3

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Number of Inspections made	...	72
Notices served	...	27
Informal 21 Statutory 6		
Privy, Urinal, Ashpit—Inspected	...	39
Nuisances abated	...	31
No. of Licensed Lodging Houses	...	1
Inspections	...	4
Slaughterhouses licensed	...	1
Inspections	...	4
New Ash Bins provided	...	23
New Earth Closets finished	...	0
Water Analysis	...	0
Nuisance from Swine keeping (abated)		3

G. STEVENS,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ending 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated population	2094
(2)	General death-rate	...	...	...	15·7
(3)	Death-rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	3·8
(4)	Infantile mortality	...	...	...	·4
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	419
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	302
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	...	0

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.**I.—Inspection.**

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	10
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	4
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	—

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	6
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.*A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	...	...	...
	(a) by owners	...	...	...
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	4

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil.
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B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners	6
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

C. *Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ...	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b) Part II., of the Act of 1890 :—

(1) Name of area	—
(2) Acreage	—
(3) Number of working-class houses in area ...	—
(4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced	—

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 —

5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer.

**Causes of Death in the Borough of Godmanchester,
1920.**

				Males.	Females.
All Causes (Civilians only)	...	...	...	16	17
1. Enteric	...	...	...	—	—
2. Small-pox	...	...	...	—	—
3. Measles	...	...	...	—	—
4. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
6. Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	—	1
7. Influenza	...	...	...	—	—
8. Erysipelas	...	...	...	—	—
9. Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—
10. Tuberculous Meningitis...	...	...	...	—	—
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	—	2
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	1	—
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	—	—
14. Meningitis	...	...	...	—	—
15. Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	3	—
16. Bronchitis	...	...	...	—	2
17. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	—	—
18. Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	—	—
19. Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	—	—
21. Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	—	—
21a. Alcoholism	...	...	...	—	—
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	1	—
23. Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
24. Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
25. Congenital Debility, &c.	...	...	...	—	1
26. Violence, apart from Suicide	...	...	...	3	—
27. Suicide	...	...	...	—	—
28. Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	8	11
29. Causes ill-defined or un-known	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age, Total	...	...	...	—	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—
Total Births	...	...	...	35	21
Legitimate	...	...	...	31	19
Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	2
Population (for births and deaths)	...	...	...		2094

Infantile Mortality during the year 1920.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Total Deaths under One Year.								
	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.
All Causes { Certified ... Uncertified	1							1
	...								
Inanition	1							1
	...								

Nett Births in the year :—	Legitimate ...50	Nett Deaths in the year of :—	Legitimate Infants ...1
	Illegitimate... 6		Illegitimate Infants...0

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1920,
for the Urban District of Godmanchester.
on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act,
1901, in connection with
Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.

1.—INSPECTIONS.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or
Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notice.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	10	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces (including Workshops Laundries)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces		Nil.	Nil.
Homeworkers' Premises ...	Nil.		
Total	10	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referee to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions.
	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

3. Homework.—Nil.
4. Registered Workshop & Bakehouses,—5.
5. Other Matters.—Nil.

Ten Years Fatal Cases of :

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis and Tubercular Disease.
1911	1	2
1912	0	0
1913	2	5
1914	5	3
1915	5	5
1916	3	2
1917	4	5
1918	2	1
1919	5	3
1920	1	2
	28	28